

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Attorney of Record Eric Grabski on 1-18-2012.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claims 4-7: cancelled

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-4 and 8-11 are allowed.

3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

After the amendments to the claims the claim limitations include the cartridge having a cylindrically-shaped outer diameter contour adjacent to the needle seat, and the needle including a cylindrically shaped area adjacent to the seat, where both these cylindrical contours are the same size. While these limitation can be found in the prior art (as seen in the previously presented art). The independent claims also include the amended limitations of curved contours on both the cartridge and the needle.

4. On it's own the curved contours of the amended claim could read on any number of curved contours that are found within a fuel injectors such as the rounded portion between the cylindrical portion of the needle and the head of the needle and the rounded contour of the walls of the pressure space (29) of U.S. Patent #5,755,385 to Potz et al.

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5. However the combination of the cylindrical outer contours which are of equal diameter as well as the curved surfaces is not seen in the prior art, and the art offers no reasonable motivational reasons why one would seek to combine the two references which demonstrate the claimed features.

6. Therefore independent claims 1 and 8 are allowable over the prior art, and therefore the claims which depend on independent claims 1 and 8 (specifically claims 2-4, and 9-11) are also allowable over the prior art due to their dependency.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JUSTIN JONAITIS whose telephone number is (571)270-5150. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Thurs 6:30am - 5:00 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Len Tran can be reached on (571)272-1184. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/JUSTIN JONAITIS/

Examiner, Art Unit 3752

/Jason J Boeckmann/

Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3752